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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/758,364	01/15/2004	Shen-Hong Chou	87159200-242006	5309
51738	7590	09/21/2007	EXAMINER	
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Pennzoil Place, South Tower				
711 Louisiana, Suite 3400			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
HOUSTON, TX 77002-2716			2885	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/758,364	CHOU ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Leah S. Lovell	2885

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 June 2007.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-10, 12-17 and 19-21 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-10, 12-17 and 19-21 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 28 June and 17 Aug 2007.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 28 June 2007 regarding the rejection of claims 1-11 under 35 U.S. C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Pelka (US 6,007,209) have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that Pelka fails to disclose the claimed invention because area 'S', as defined by the instant application, does not constitute the entire bottom surface of the illumination device and that Pelka's "area 'S'" should be determined by considering the area where the light sources are actually mounted." The Examiner respectfully disagrees. The claim, as currently amended, states: "a plurality of light sources distributed on a plane with a light distribution surface area 'S'. The Examiner interprets the "light distribution surface" as a surface that will assist in the distribution of the light emitted by the light sources to the optical devices of the LCD. The Examiner further interprets the bottom surface 15 as the light distribution surface since the surface has a reflective coating to assist in delivering the light emitted by the light sources to the optical devices positioned above the surface. For assistance, the Examiner has provided a copy of figure 3 of Pelka, which has been modified to indicate the area of the bottom surface considered to be the light distribution surface and where it turns into the side walls below.

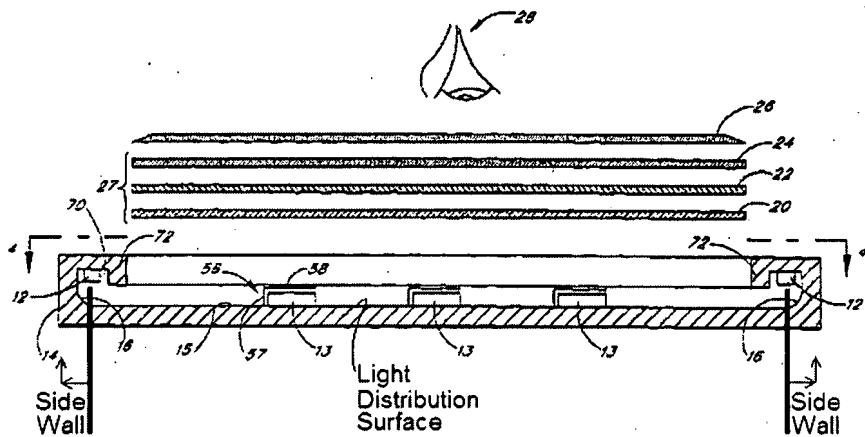


FIGURE A: From Figure 2 of Pelka, modified to indicate the light distribution surface and sidewalls

As indicated in figure A above, the light distribution surface area 'S' is greater than the area of the light incident area of the diffusing plate.

2. Applicant's arguments, see item 2, page 9, filed 28 June 2007, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 12, 13 and 15-19 under 102(e) in view of Mosier (US 7,036,946) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Takayanagi et al. (US 6,616,316).

3. Applicant's arguments, see item 3, page 10, filed 28 June 2007, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 12-19, 21 and 22 under 102(b) in view of Satoh (US 6,315,440) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Takayanagi et al. (US 6,616,316).

Information Disclosure Statement

4. The information disclosure statement filed 17 August 2007 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each cited foreign patent document;

each non-patent literature publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed. It has been placed in the application file, but the foreign references referred to therein has not been considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims 1-6 and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pelka (US 6,007,209).

Regarding claim 1, Pelka discloses an illumination device for display systems comprising:

a plurality of light sources [12, 13] distributed in a plane over an area 'S' [indicated above].

at least one light diffusing plate [20] optically coupled to the plurality of light sources [figure 3] and having a light incidence area for receiving light from the plurality of light source [figure 3, surface closest to light sources (lower surface running horizontal)], wherein the light distribution surface area 'S" is at least greater than the light incidence area of the at

least one light-diffusing plate [figure 4 shows the array and the area 'S' in which the lights are disposed; figure 3 shows the size of the area in relation to the light incidence area of the light-diffusing plate; figure A above]; and

a device case [14] enclosing the plurality of light sources [figure 3], wherein the device case comprises a plurality of sidewalls having an inner surface [figure 4] is configured to reflect light [column 3, lines 59-67] from the plurality of light sources.

In regard to claim 2, Pelka discloses:

the display system comprises a display panel [26] having a display area for displaying images;

the display panel [26] is optically coupled to the at least one light-diffusing plate [20] [figure 3]; and

light incidence area of the at least one light-diffusing plate corresponds to the display area [figure 3].

Regarding claim 3, Pelka discloses:

the display area has a width 'A' and a length 'B' [any three dimensional object has at least a width and length];

each one of the plurality of light sources is separated from adjacent light sources by a pitch 'G' [figure 4 shows spacing]; and

the area S is confined to the range defined by $(A+G) \times (B+G) \leq S \leq (A+3G) \times (B+3G)$ [while the dimensions are not explicitly stated from figure

3 it can be interpreted that the area 'S' is approximately $(A+2G) \times (B+2G)$ which meets the limitation].

Regarding claim 4, Pelka discloses the display panel [26] is a liquid crystal display panel [column 3, line 23].

In regard to claim 5, Pelka discloses the plurality of light sources [12, 13] are light emitting diodes [abstract; all throughout column 4].

In regard to claim 6, Pelka discloses the plurality of light sources [12, 13] are distributed in an array [figure 4; column 4, line 28-column 5, line 19].

In regard to claim 8, Pelka discloses a portion of at least one of the plurality of sidewalls is inclined at an angle in the range of about 60 degrees to about 90 degrees relative to the plane of the plurality of light sources [figure 3 shows the vertical side walls at a 90° angle to the horizontal bottom surface].

In regard to claim 9, Pelka discloses a portion of at least one of the plurality of sidewalls is curved [figure 3; the bottom portions of the vertical sidewalls are curved].

Regarding claim 10, Pelka discloses the inner surface of at least one of the plurality of sidewalls is configured to scatter light within the device case [column 3, line 60 since "diffusively" means to scatter light].

7. Claims 12-17 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Takayanagi et al. (US 6,616,316).

Regarding claim 12, Takayanagi discloses an illumination device for a display system comprising:

a light guide plate [2] having at least one side edge surface and a light-emerging surface, wherein the at least one side edge surface is substantially orthogonal to the light-emerging surface [abstract]; and a plurality of light sources [4a, 4b] optically coupled to the light guide plate [2] at the at least one side edge surface [optically coupled by the light conductive bar 3a, 3b], wherein the plurality of light sources [4a, 4b] is placed along a length 'M' [along 6] that is at least equal to or greater than a length of the at least one side edge surface of the light guide plate [; and

a device case [7] enclosing the plurality of light sources [figure 4], wherein the device case comprises a plurality of sidewalls having an inner surface and an outer surface configured to reflect light from the plurality of light sources [column 5, line 14; metal has inherent reflective properties].

In regard to claim 13, Takayanagi discloses:

the display system [L] comprises a display panel having a display area for displaying images;

the display panel [L] is optically coupled to the light guide plate [figures 2-4];

the display panel [L] is substantially parallel to the light-emerging surface of the light guide plate [figures 2-4]; and

at least one side of the display area is substantially parallel to the at least one side edge surface of the light guide plate [figures 2-4].

Regarding claim 14, Takayanagi discloses:

the at least one side of the display area that is substantially parallel to the at least one side edge surface of the light guide plate has a length 'B' [n3];
each one of the plurality of light sources is separated from the adjacent light sources by a pitch 'G' [n3 + (r3)/2]; and
the length 'M' is confined to the range defined by $(B+G) \leq M \leq (B+3G)$.

Regarding claim 15, Takayanagi discloses the display panel is a liquid crystal display panel [abstract].

In regard to claim 16, Takayanagi discloses the plurality of light sources are light emitting diodes [column 1, line 65].

In regard to claim 17, Takayanagi discloses the plurality of light sources are distributed in an array [more than 1 in a non-random pattern is an array].

In regard to claim 19, Takayanagi discloses a portion of at least one of the plurality of sidewalls is inclined at an angle in the range of about 60 degrees to about 90 degrees relative to the plane of the plurality of light sources [90°; figure 2-4].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 2885

9. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takayanagi et al (US 6,616,316), as applied to claim 1, and in view of Pelka (US 6,007,209).

In regard to claim 20, Takayanagi discloses the sidewalls as being straight. A person of ordinary skill in the art, upon reading the reference, would also have recognized the desirability of improving the amount of light reflected by sidewalls of a frame for maximum light efficiency. Pelka teaches that the curved sidewall [16]. Furthermore, Pelka teaches the use of a curved sidewall in a compact LCD display system. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to try curved sidewalls of Pelka in an attempt to improve the light efficiency of the sidewalls, as a person with ordinary skill has good reason to pursue the known options within his or her technical grasp. In turn, because curved sidewalls in an LCD system as claimed has the properties predicted by the prior art, it would have been obvious to try curved sidewalls like those of Pelka in the system of Takayanagi. *KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc.*, 82 USPQ2d 1385 (2007).

10. Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takayanagi et al (US 6,616,316), as applied to claim 1.

Regarding claim 21, Takayanagi discloses the claimed invention having a metal frame. However, Takayanagi fails to disclose light diffusive sidewalls. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to coat the sidewalls of the frame with a light diffusive material, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use. *In re Leshin*, 125 USPQ 416. One would be motivated

to do so because it is well known in the art to coat metal with a desired finish, in this case a light diffusive finish, in order to increase the optical efficiency of a metal. discloses the inner surface of at least one of the plurality of sidewalls of the device case is configured to scatter light within the device case.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leah S. Lovell whose telephone number is (571) 272-2719. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 7:45 a.m. until 4:15 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jong-Suk (James) Lee can be reached on (571) 272-7044. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Leah Lovell

Examiner

14 September 2007


BRIAN CARIASO
PRIMARY EXAMINER